

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 042890 TOSEC 040204

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

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TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: FEB. 22 NYTIMES STORY BY LESLIE GELB ENTITL,"US
BACKING GULF'S TIES WITH VICTORIOUS ANGOLANS; STATE
DEPARTMENT ALSO PERMITS DELIVERY OF TWO BOEING
AIRLINERS TO LUANDA"

BEGIN TEXT:

"THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS GIVEN ITS APPROVAL TO THE
GULF OIL CORPORATION AND THE BOEING COMPANY TO RESUME NORMAL
BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WITH THE ANGOLAN NATIONALIST
FACTION BACKED BY THE SOVIET UNION, ACCORDING TO STATE
DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

"WHILE THESE ACTIONS MARK AN IMPORTANT POLICY REVERSAL
AND COULD BE READ AS THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD ESTABLISHING
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POPULAR
MOVEMENT OF THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA, THE OFFICIALS
TENDED TO DOWNPLAY THIS POSSIBILITY.

"THE ONLY GUY WHO CAN SAY IS IN LATIN AMERICA,' ONE
OFFICIAL SAID, REFERRING TO SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A.

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KISSINGER.

"THE OFFICIALS STATED THAT THE ONLY POINT THAT HAS BEEN DECIDED IS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT RECOGNIZE THE POPULAR MOVEMENT'S GOVERNMENT IN LUANDA BEFORE ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA -- THE TWO NATIONS THAT INITIALLY URGED UNITED STATES INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA.

"ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, THE OFFICIALS SAID, MR. KISSINGER GAVE GULF THE GO-AHEAD TO PAY THE LUANDA REGIME ABOUT \$100 MILLION IN OIL TAX REVENUES THAT GULF PLACED IN ESCROW LAST DECEMBER AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. GULF HOLDS THE CONCESSION TO OPERATE THE OIL FIELDS IN CABINDA, A PROVINCE SEPARATED FROM ANGOLA BY A SLIVER OF ZAIRE.

"THE CABINDA OIL FIELDS, BRINGING IN REVENUES OF ABOUT \$500 MILLION A YEAR IN THE PAST FROM GULF, ARE THE SINGLE LARGEST SOURCE OF MONEY FOR THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT.

"THE OFFICIALS ALSO DISCLOSED THAT GULF HAD BEEN DEALING INDIRECTLY WITH LUANDA SINCE LATE JANUARY THROUGH THE CURRENT NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE, LIEUT. GEN. OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, AND THAT GULF WAS ABOUT TO OPEN DIRECT TALKS WITH LUANDA WITH STATE DEPARTMENT APPROVAL.

"A GULF SPOKESMAN SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE COMPANY WAS TRYING TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT AND GULF'S PRESIDENT, JAMES D. LEE, WAS QUOTED BY BUSINESS WEEK MAGAZINE YESTERDAY AS HAVING SAID, 'WE WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE WORKING WITH ANY GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA.'

"THE OFFICIALS DESCRIBED GULF EXECUTIVES AS EAGER TO GET THE OIL-DRILLING OPERATION UNDER WAY AGAIN FOR FEAR THAT LUANDA WOULD OTHERWISE GIVE THE CONCESSION TO A FOREIGN COMPETITOR. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, WHICH RECENTLY RECOGNIZED LUANDA, IS SAID TO BE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE CONCESSION FOR A FRENCH COMPANY.

"TWO BOEING 737 AIRCRAFT WILL BE RELEASED FOR DELIVERY TO LUANDA ON TUESDAY. AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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STATE DEPARTMENT REVOKED THE EXPORT LICENSE FOR THE PLANES 'ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL SECURITY.'

"AT THAT TIME, A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE PLANES WOULD BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. T.A.G.,

THE ANGOLAN AIRLINE, WHICH HAD PURCHASED THE AIRCRAFT, HAD

GIVEN A GUARANTEE THAT THE PLANES WOULD BE USED ONLY
COMMERCIALY.

"THE TWO 737-200C AIRCRAFT WERE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE AND WERE
SET FOR DELIVERY IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. THEY ARE
SHORT-RANGE JETS THAT CAN TRANSPORT UP TO 135 PASSANGERS
OR CARGO. THE TRANSACTION TOTALED \$18 MILLION.

"IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, LUANDA HAS RECEIVED RECOGNITION
FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND FROM WEST
EUROPEAN NATIONS AND CANADA. THE FORD ADMINISTRATION
HAS BEEN BACKING THE OTHER TWO GROUPS IN ANGOLA -- THE

NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA AND THE
NATIONAL UNION FOR THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA.

"MR. KISSINGER HAS INDICATED THAT HE FAVORS WITHHOLDING
RECOGNITION OF LUANDA UNTIL IT HAS TAKEN SOME
CLEAR-CUT ACTION REGARDING THE 11,000 CUBAN TROOPS
NOW SAID TO BE IN ANGOLA. ONE HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL SAID MR. KISSINGER HAD NOT DIRECTLY STATED THAT
ALL OF THESE CUBAN TROOPS MUST BE WITHDRAWN BEFORE
RECOGNITION CAN BE GRANTED.

"HENRY HAS NOT SAID EXACTLY WHAT HE EXPECTS THEM TO DO
ABOUT THE CUBANS,' THE OFFICIAL EXPLAINED.

"SENATOR JOHN V. TUNNEY, DEMOCRAT OF CALIFORNIA,AND
AUTHOR OF THE AMENDMENT THAT TERMINATED COVERT
AMERICAN MILITARY AID IN ANGOLA, MAINTAINS THAT LUANDA
HAS ALREADY GIVEN ASSURANCES ON THE CUBANS. ONE OF
MR. TUNNEY'S AIDES RECENTLY RETURNED FROM LUANDA WITH
A MEMORANDUM APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT LEADERS.
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"IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, THE LEADERS STATED:

"WE HAVE NO DESIRE FOR A PERMANENT SOVIET OR CUBAN
PRESENCE. WHEN THE OTHER FOREIGN FORCES WITHDRAW, SO,
TOO WILL THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS.

"YOU MAY ASSURE YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT WE WILL NEVER
PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY FOREIGN BASES ON ANGOLAN
SOIL, AIR OR NAVAL, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE SOVIET
UNION. THIS IS SUPERPOWERBUSINESS, AND WE WANT NONE OF
IT.'

"WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS MEMORANDUM, A STATE
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, JOHN H. TRATTNER, SAID:

WE WOULD BE MORE IMPRESSED BY CONCRETE EVIDENCE
THAT THE MPLA HAS REDUCED THE CUBAN-SOVIET PRESENCE. IT

SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT OUR QUARREL IS NOT WITH
THE MPLA PER SE, BUT RATHER WITH THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS
WHO ARE ENGAGED IN ARMED INTERVENTION.'

"SINCE THE DOWNTURN IN FORTUNES OF THE UNITED STATES-
BACKED GROUPS, MR. KISSINGER HAS BEEN LETTING LUANDA
KNOW THAT THE AMERICAN DOOR IS OPEN TO THEM ONLY IF
THEY TAKE STEPS TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM MOSCOW.
ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA HAVE BEEN SEEKING ASSURANCES THAT
LUANDA WILL NOT FOMENT GUERRILLA OPERATIONS AGAINST
THEM.

"ONE OF THE OFFICIALS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
STATE DEPARTMENT'S NEW SIGNAL TO LUANDA BY RECALLING THAT
GULF HAD SUSPENDED ITS OPERATIONS IN CABINDA AND PUT THE
REVENUES FOR LUANDA IN ESCROW UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE
FORD ADMINISTRATION. THE GULF FUNDS WERE BEING USED
TO FINANCE A REGIME THE UNITED STATES WAS OPPOSING.
THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT GULF EXECUTIVES WERE CLOSE TO
DECIDING TO OPEN DIRECT TALKS WITH LUANDA IN VIEW OF
THE UNCERTAINTY OF THEIR CONTINUQNG TO USE NIGERIA AS AN
INTERMEDIARY.

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"NIGERIAN LEADERS HAVE BEEN CHARGING AMERICAN AND
BRITISH INFLUENCE IN THE RECENT COUP ATTEMPT AGAINST THE
GOVERNMENT IN LAGOS."

END TEXT.

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